

REMARKS

Applicant adds claims 44-52; therefore, claims 1-6 and 43-52 are pending in the application.

The Examiner rejects: claims 1-6 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite; claims 1, 3 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Funada et al. (Funada) or Applicant's admitted prior art (specification pages 7-10 and Figs. 1-6b); and claims 2 and 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Funada or Applicant's admitted prior art. Also, the Examiner objects to claim 2 because of a misspelling, and requires a new title that is more descriptive of the claimed invention.

35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph, Rejection, Objections and Formalities

In view of the Examiner's comments, Applicant:

- amends the specification to correct minor typographical errors;
- submits a new title which more clearly describes the claimed invention; and
- amends claims 1-4 and 43 in order to overcome the Examiner's §112, second paragraph, rejections, and to more clearly recite the features of Applicant's invention.

Accordingly, the Examiner's objections and §112 rejections should be withdrawn.

Also, Applicant files concurrently herewith a Submission of Corrected Formal Drawing that is believed to obviate the informalities indicated on Form PTO-948 attached to the Office Action, Paper No. 9.

Prior Art Rejections

Applicant's invention relates to image sensor devices, and provides an image sensor device with improved quality and more efficient utilization of light. In particular, some of the features of the claimed device, as illustrated, for example, in Figs. 7-9B, 13, 16 and 17, are: individual light emission portions disposed in a one-to-one correspondence with the light receiving elements (claim 43); and light emission portions substantially aligned with their corresponding light receiving elements (claims 1 and 43). The claimed device reduces power consumption by utilizing light emission efficiently (see specification at page 35, line 9-13) That is, the claimed device prevents generation of a stray light, makes it possible to read by high resolving power, and achieves depreciation of power consumption in the light source by limiting a size of emission portion to the minimum necessary.

The prior art devices, as illustrated in Applicant's Figs. 5-6B, lack at least the feature of at least one light emission portion being substantially aligned with its corresponding light receiving element, as recited in the independent claims 1 and 43.

Likewise, Funada does not disclose or even suggest a structure wherein the light emission portions are substantially aligned with the corresponding light receiving elements (see, for example, Funada's Fig. 4). Therefore, unlike the claimed image sensor device, Funada and the prior art devices illustrated in Applicant's Figs. 5-6B are not capable of reducing power consumption, nor achieving the benefits noted above.

In summary, Applicant's admitted prior art devices and Funada do not disclose or even suggest at least the feature the light emission portions being substantially aligned with corresponding light receiving elements, as recited in independent claims 1 and 43. Therefore, claims 1 and 43, as well as the dependent claims 2-6 (which incorporate, by reference, all the

novel and unobvious features of their base claim 1) are not anticipated by and would not have been obvious from Funada and Applicant's admitted prior art at least for this reason.

New Claims

Applicant adds new claims 44-52 to more fully define all the features of the inventive image sensor device. Thus, Applicant concurrently files herewith an Excess Claim Fee Payment Letter including a check for an additional 1 excess independent claim and 9 excess total claims.

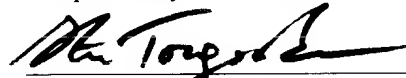
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to find the application to be in condition for allowance with claims 1-6 and 43-52. However, if for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney to discuss any unresolved issues and to expedite the disposition of the application.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

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Date: August 6, 1999